

NRO review(s) completed.

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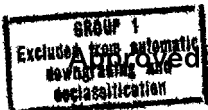
OFFICE OF SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
DD/S&T
CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1. OSA began its life organizationally in early 1955 as a small project group of about six people grafted onto the staff of R. M. Bissell, Jr., then Special Assistant for Policy Coordination, Office of the DCI (SAPC/DCI). The project, of course, was the covert development and operation of the U-2 aircraft in conjunction with the USAF, and was known as Project AQUATONE. A formal agreement with Air Force was signed by Mr. Dulles and General Twining in June of that year, delineating areas of responsibility for both parties to the pact.

2. The SAPC/DCI relationship continued as the Project grew, but as it emerged and gave signs of surviving beyond the 13 to 17 months operational life forecast for it as the beginning, and as field detachments were deployed [redacted] by mid-1957, SAPC/DCI strength topped [redacted]. Technically, this brought the on-board strength of the Director's Office to [redacted] and when this was brought to Mr. Dulles' attention, he was horrified and directed that something be done to reduce the apparent swelling in his personal staff. The AQUATONE personnel were separated from Mr. Bissell's personal staff and renamed the Development Projects Staff, retaining their organizational affiliation with the Director only in the term DPS/DCI. Mr. Bissell wore two hats as SAPC/DCI and as Chief, DPS. The group which became later known as COMOR, was attached to SAPC/DCI as the ARC (Ad Hoc Requirements Committee), the first unified effort to codify strategic intelligence requirements and to differentiate them from tactical intelligence requirements.

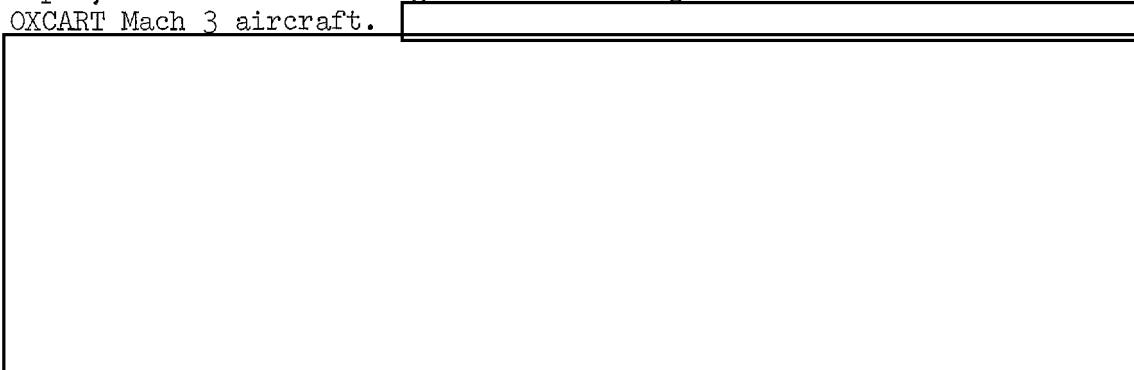
3. This condition pertained until February 1959, when Mr. Bissell became DD/P. At that point, the group was renamed Development Projects Division and was headed for the first time by an Air Force Officer, [redacted]

4. By the time DPD was blended into DD/P, it was no longer single project-oriented, [redacted]. In 1958, preliminary work had begun on a successor system to AQUATONE (by then named CHALICE) under the cryptonym GUSTO. Active work was under way on development of Project CORONA, a satellite photo system which emerged from the ashes of the abortive Air Force System 117L (Pied Piper), cancelled as a cover ploy in March 1958, to permit covert development of CORONA ostensibly under ARPA. In September 1959, OXCART became a project



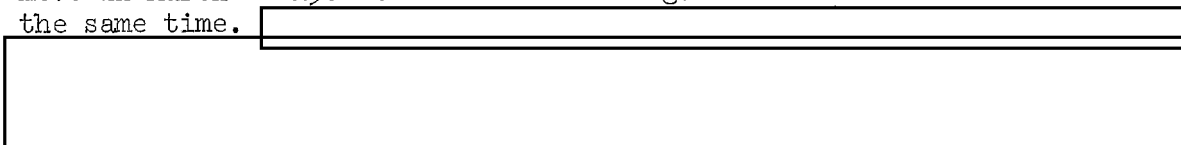
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succeeding GUSTO, so on 1 January 1960, DPD was on the verge of launching with Air Force the first CORONA mission (it was unsuccessful), it was operating two major CHALICE detachments overseas (Turkey and Japan) and it was starting to work cutting titanium for the first OXCART Mach 3 aircraft.



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6. On 28 February 1962, with the resignation of Mr. Bissell as DD/P, DPD was transferred to the newly formed DD/R, coincident with its move in March of 1962 to the new building. It was also renamed OSA at the same time.



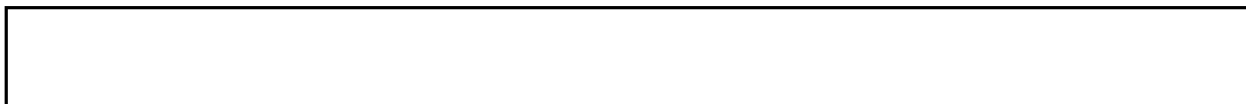
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7. Following establishment of the NRO by DOD/CIA agreement of 13 March 1963, it was not long before satellite operations responsibility moved to the SOC of NRO in the Pentagon (1964). OSP was formed shortly after establishment of DD/S&T in the fall of 1963. OSP then assumed all responsibility for satellite systems and OSA reverted to concern only with manned reconnaissance systems (IDEALIST, OXCART) and development of downstream state-of-the-art manned systems like ISINGLASS. The new version of the U-2 will also be lodged in OSA.

MILESTONE DATES

24 November 1954	U-2 Project approved by President.
10 June 1955	USAF/CIA Agreement on Project AQUATONE.
June 1955	Project AQUATONE staff formed under SAPC/DCI.
6 August 1955	First flight of U-2, eight months after contract let.

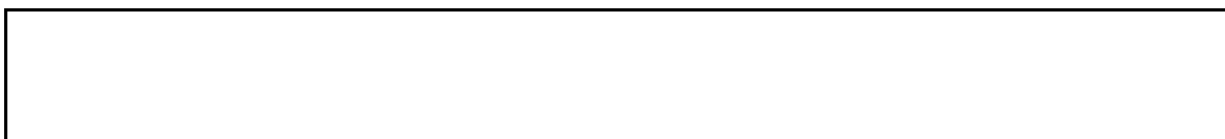
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20 June 1956	First U-2 overflight of Soviet Bloc countries.
4 July 1956	First U-2 flight over Russia.

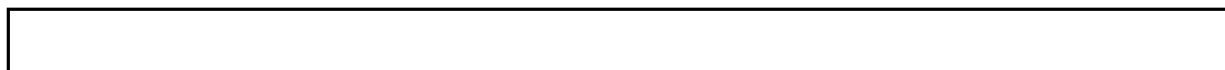
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20 August 1956	Second U-2 detachment deployed to Adana, Turkey.
11 September 1956	First U-2 overflight (of Middle East) from Turkey.
February 1957	Third U-2 detachment deployed to Atsugi, Japan.
20 June 1957	First U-2 overflight in Far East over Russia.



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March 1958	Project CORONA started; 117L system (Pied Piper) cancelled by USAF.
1 September 1958	Land Panel approved GUSTO effort leading to OXCART; first GUSTO contract let.
21 January 1959	First CORONA launch.
June 1959	Presidential approval for OXCART advanced feasibility study.
4 September 1959	Letter of intent with Lockheed for OXCART.
November 1959	CORONA cover moved from ARPA to SAFSS/USAF.
November 1959	Presidential approval to proceed with OXCART.
8 February 1960	Production contract for OXCART let.
1 May 1960	Last U-2 overflight of Russia.
20 August 1960	First successful CORONA flight after 13 failures.



October 1960	U-2 detachment in Turkey returned to U. S. ; regrouped at EAFB.
26 October 1960	First U-2 flight over Cuba from U. S.

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November 1960

U-2 detachment in Japan returned to U. S.,
regrouped at EAFB.

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15-19 April 1961

Air operations, Bay of Pigs.

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26 April 1962

First flight of OXCART aircraft,

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9 May 1962

First Mach 3 flight of OXCART aircraft.

5 October 1962

Last CIA U-2 flight over Cuba (50 flown in
all).

29 February 1964

A-11 surfaced by President.

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23 November 1965

OXCART declared operationally ready.

OSA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Developed and operated U-2 program for ten years (1956-66).
2. Developed first operational satellite reconnaissance system in world.
3. Developed first operational Mach 3 aircraft in world.
4. Developed TALENT and TKH systems
5.
6. Furnished entire air support to Cuban operation.
7.
8. Located first SA-2 site in Cuba during 1962 missile crisis.

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9. Established first combined world-wide communications and avionics capability in CIA.
10. Established first and only CIA-industry secure communications network.
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